

# CITY OF REDMOND ARTS COMMISSION

## MINUTES

August 12, 2004

Old Redmond Schoolhouse Community Center

*"Voice the views of the community to Mayor and City Council in reference to all cultural endeavors."*

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:** Chairperson Phil Teller (arrived at 7:10 p.m.), Vice Chair Kay Tarapolsi, Heidi Houghton, Latha Sambamurti, Katie Innes, Yvette Waters

**ABSENT AND EXCUSED:** Roy Leban, Jill Schmidt, Abbott Smith; youth advocate Nicole Rollofson

**STAFF PRESENT:** Melna Skillingstead, Arts Administrator; Sandra Bettencourt, Recreation Program Manager; Pam Maybee, Recording Secretary

**AUDIENCE PRESENT:** None

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## **AGENDA**

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### **I. CALL TO ORDER**

Vice Chair Kay Tarapolsi called to order the regular meeting of the Redmond Arts Commission (RAC) at 7:05 p.m. at the Old Redmond Schoolhouse Community Center (ORSCC).

**Notations:** Tarapolsi welcomed the two new Commissioners present. Waters gave a brief biography, noting her interests in technical writing and performing arts. (Innes had given her bio at the last meeting.)

### **II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Motion for approval of the RAC minutes of July 8, 2004 as submitted by:**

Commissioner Houghton

**Second by:** Commissioner Tarapolsi

**Motion carried:** 6-0 unanimous

### **III. ADDITIONS TO AGENDA**

None

### **IV. ITEMS FROM THE AUDIENCE**

None

### **V. GENERAL RAC BUSINESS**

#### **A. Chair/Vice Chair**

Chair Teller welcomed the new Commissioners and reviewed the role of an Arts Commissioner and RAC. He explained that RAC is comprised of volunteer citizen advisory personnel, commissioned to advise the City with their best knowledge and collective background. He directed the new Commissioners to keep sight of the established programs in RAC. Bettencourt noted that policy recommendations go to the level of Mayor and City Council through staff.

#### **B. Continuing Business – Task List**

Tarapolsi circulated the task list, requesting Commissioners check off last month's completed items. She explained the task list procedure to the new Commissioners.

#### **C. Committee Chairs**

Teller announced there were openings for committee chair positions in two categories: Literary Arts Committee and Grants Committee. New Commissioner Abbott Smith (not present at this meeting), volunteered to chair the Arts Education Committee. Houghton and Teller are co-chairs of the Visual Arts Committee. Sambamurti is chair of Performing Arts Committee. Waters volunteered to be on the Performing Arts Committee.

Commissioner Waters inquired about the literary arts chair position. Commissioners outlined the duties of that position: (1) liaison between RASP and RAC, (2) provide certain content for the ArtsQuest page in *Focus Magazine*, and (3) drive the monthly meeting (schedule and lead meetings, and compose agenda and minutes).

**Motion for approval of Commissioner Waters as Literary Arts chairperson by:**

Commissioner Teller

**Second by:** Commissioner Tarapolsi

**Motion carried:** 6-0 unanimous

Teller noted that LaBrunerie had indicated she would like to be on the Literary Arts Committee as well.

Tarapolsi reported that Houghton accepted the position as grant chair.

**Motion for approval of Commissioner Houghton as Grants Committee chairperson**

**by:** Commissioner Tarapolsi

**Second by:** Commissioner Teller

**Motion carried:** 6-0 unanimous

**D. RAC Pairing Up**

New Commissioners were paired up with established Commissioners as mentors and co-collaborators:

- Innes with Tarapolsi
- Waters with Sambamurti
- Leban with Houghton
- Smith with Schmidt

**VI. Performing/Literary Arts**

**A. Project(s) Status**

**1. Arts in the Parks**

Sambamurti announced there were three more Arts in the Parks performances in the series in August. She reported the following on previous performances:

- Good attendance in all shows.
- People came from other cities in the greater Seattle area, as well as Redmond.
- Julius Caesar had over 300 people (the largest audience).
- The Microsoft performance of Bakra dancers was videotaped for RCTV.
- Artists were happy with their performances in Anderson Park, as it was a beautiful venue for the performances.

**2. Derby Days Parade**

Sambamurti expressed thanks to Teller for providing his Glitterotti art car and to those Commissioners who participated in the parade and distributed flyers. She noted that payment to the Bhangra dancers was reduced from \$200 to \$25 as they did not fulfill their agreed-upon obligation.

## **B. Funding/Marketing**

### **1. Arts in the Parks**

Sambamurti reported the following:

- Awaiting to hear of a funding commitment from PSE for Arts in the Parks
- Arts in the Parks was advertised on 10 to 15 web site event calendars as of July 1
- Flyers were distributed at Redmond and Seattle businesses, restaurants, and other locations

Houghton asked how the Redmond Town Center artist performances were going.

## **C. New Business**

### **1. Literary Arts Program Discussion**

Tarapolsi expressed concern regarding funding to RASP, specifically referencing last month's RAC discussion. Tarapolsi submitted for the record a handout of these concerns and offered these additional comments in support of continuing to fund the *Write Out Loud!* project through RASP:

- RASP has grown; income and audiences have increased; the event reaches audiences of all ages.
- There is not enough money in the Organizational Support Grant; too many organizations apply and all the money is given out.
- RAC funds RASP to do the literary program that RAC does not have the resources to do.
- RASP is not being funded as an emerging organization; rather, they are being funded to do the literary program for RAC.
- It should not be a grant; rather, it should be a support to an organization.
- It is important for the City to partner with other organizations such as RASP.
- There is a lot of interest in the *Write Out Loud!* event; they grow every year.
- RAC cannot handle the burden that RASP does as an organization.

Teller suggested giving them the same amount from a different source.

Bettencourt explained that the money was historically designated for emerging organizations to get them started. There have been many administrative, etc., changes in RASP over the years as they have emerged. Bettencourt noted that if an existing (not emerging) organization wants funding from the City, then it can go through a public process where it goes out to bid; this puts it on a different level. She suggested evaluating the funding policy. Also noted, the City has a partnering relationship with

RASP through the use of the City's facilities. Staff would like to see new programming elements emerge to grow the organization.

Tarapolsi emphasized that she does not want to see RASP lose the money, nor does she want to see the literary responsibility come back onto RAC.

Houghton reiterated that seven years is not enough to establish an organization such as RASP. It should be at least 10 years if an organization needs to prove itself; then, there would also be a need to find criteria to assess them.

#### **D. Staff Reports**

##### **1. Annual Northwest Booking Conference – October 18-21**

Skillingstead reported she has asked Sambamurti to attend with her the showcases of artists at the Northwest Booking Conference of Performing Arts held at the Meydenbauer Center and Kirkland Performance Center. It would be a good opportunity to review artists that could be block-booked and brought to the area. Skillingstead added that RAC's training money would be going for their attendance, as well as the Cultural Congress.

##### **2. Performance Network Pilot**

Sambamurti outlined the changes to 4Culture's Performance Network for next year:

- 4Culture is instituting a pilot "site specific" arts program where performances or visual art works would be located in one place—a public venue other than a traditional performance space, accessible to the general public.
- All projects will occur in September and October of 2005.
- Awards range from \$3,500 to \$7,500, based on the project and require matching funds from the LAA's.
- 4Culture will hold a call for artists (no advertising).
- Eight to 15 projects would be selected in the pilot's first year of 2005.
- The application deadline is October 29, 2004.
- RAC can promote to the artist community, although it does not have to be a Redmond artist.

Houghton suggested sending the call out to RASP.

Bettencourt suggested the chair could draft a letter.

Sambamurti recommended the RAC Performing Arts Committee make use of this opportunity. Houghton noted the program is for the artists; it happens that in 2005 it would be held in Redmond. Skillingstead noted it would mean that RAC would not receive the \$5,500 as in years' past. Teller deduced the program is taking the control out of the hands of the Commissions and giving it to the artists, i.e., it is up to the artist where they want to perform.

Teller stated it was important to make artists aware that there is money available—that there is funding through this program, which would get them to come to Redmond.

Teller announced that this Friday and Saturday (August 13 and 14) at 9:00 p.m., the Cirque d' Flambé is presenting a new, family friendly performance at Magnusson Park (Sand Point) in Seattle. Tickets are at the door. Teller expressed he would like to bring them to Redmond to perform.

## **VII. Visual Arts**

### **A. Project(s) Status**

#### **1. Outdoor Sculpture Garden**

- Tarapolsi presented a handout of a list of businesses designated to receive a proposal to support the Outdoor Sculpture Garden. She asked Commissioners for suggestions of other businesses. She also asked for Commissioners to drop off the proposal and get the name of their contact at each business. Tarapolsi will then contact the businesses the following week.
- Tarapolsi showed the design for the Outdoor Sculpture Garden opening postcard, but referenced another postcard format she would be using instead. Skillingstead stated that 20 should go to each artist, plus a printing of another 500. Tarapolsi will ask the print shop for 700 postcards.
- Tarapolsi reported that Julian's piece required a fence. Redmond Town Center requested the piece be moved, as they felt it was a risk for children as well as a distraction/hazard for people driving by. Town Center requested a replacement piece and offered to give \$500 for the honorarium. However, Tarapolsi reported that after contacting the artist, Town Center did not have the \$500. Consequently, no art will be located at the trail entrance site; RAC has no funds to replace it. Julian's piece will be moved to the old Keeney's office site grassy area on Redmond Way.

- Tarapolsi met with a councilwoman from Puyallup who offered the following details from their sculpture garden program:
  - 30 committee members work on the Puyallup sculpture program.
  - The sculpture program committee annually receives \$40,000 for their budget from dedicated funds from Puyallup's hotel/motel tax fund.
  - Puyallup began their outdoor sculpture garden in 1996, and currently have 89 pieces.
  - They hold a large gala black tie fund-raiser with an auction every year, and the money received goes back into funding the project.
  - Site-planning meetings are held where businesses donate food and the artists come and help choose their own sites.

Puyallup recommended that RAC solicit involvement on their Outdoor Sculpture Garden from the Mayor, City Council, and the Planning Commission. One idea would be to get a Planning Department person on board to support the program, to collaborate for space when doing the downtown master plan construction.

Bettencourt reported on a tourism committee (formed with tourism dollars), who are developing the map of the Woodinville/Redmond corridor. She has requested they add the Outdoor Sculpture Garden program to the map. This map will go out to many people. She suggested figuring out the tourism dollars for the grants and seeing how decisions are arrived. The possibility of an ongoing partnership with tourism could be considered, as opposed to a one-time grant. ***Commissioners agreed and directed staff to move forward on their research.***

## 2. Visual Arts Committee Meeting Report (E-mailed)

The following Visual Arts Committee reported was emailed:

The Visual Arts Committee meeting was held July 26, 2004, with the following in attendance: Pam Rembold, Phil Teller, Melna Skillingstead, Jill Schmidt, Kate Innes, Heidi Houghton.

First of note was an announcement by Skillingstead that, after working on the 2005-06 budget, the VA committee does have approximately \$20,000 in its coffers. A few days later she clarified that this was a projected amount and would be finalized upon approval of the 2005-06 budget by Council. Visual Arts definitely has approximately \$9,000 for 2004.

- Dove Lady: Needed to make a decision and not keep Donna Miller waiting any longer. After very little discussion it was decided that we should approach her and try to buy the piece, possibly splitting up the payments over two budget cycles. One possible site is the new City Hall: foyer or Mayor's Office. Innes pointed out that there may be some insurance issues while neither party fully owns the piece. These issues can be easily resolved.

Everyone felt that Dudley Carter was a very important cultural figure in Redmond's history and resources should be made available to acquire his pieces. It was pointed out that the collection should include a variety of artists but that a certain cachet exists for a collection when it owns a body of work by one artist.

- Andrew Carson: Schmidt and Tarapolsi spoke to Andrew Carson further about acquiring one of his kinetic sculptures for the City. He is willing to sell it to us for half price, in the \$6,000-\$7,000 range, if we have a good site for it. Brainstormed a little on sites but needed to pinpoint those down and have him approve of them before going ahead.
- Outdoor Sculpture Garden: Have run into a small snag with Green Fluorescent Protein. The City has deemed that the piece needs a small fence due to playground standards. Redmond Town Center has decided that they do not want the piece on their property. Tarapolsi suggested the old Keeney Corner or Victor's. Teller suggested the divider island on Leary Way adjacent to the Justice White House.

Tarapolsi has suggested that the exhibit once again change its name to Redmond Outdoor Sculpture to reflect the new reality of the exhibit. Mainly that it will be growing Redmond-wide as opposed to being all on one piece of property.

Tarapolsi started on the new venture of getting businesses to sponsor sculptures. She spoke to the Redmond Chamber of Commerce who coolly denied her access to their membership list and said they would be interested in the project once it was farther along in support from individual businesses.

She now has a number of volunteers to carry out the new venture. Their first order of business will be to put together a packet of information and start to identify businesses and locations to target. She will also have to provide a script for the volunteers for approaching businesses.

Skillingstead mentioned that new plaques are being made for the sculptures. They may say "Keep off artwork," but the committee felt that that did not convey the proper message. Sculptures are meant to be touched, just not climbed. On further consideration, Tarapolsi suggested something like "Treat sculptures gently."

There was some discussion from different quarters on sharing a rotation of sculptures around the Eastside to hopefully make everyone's work less and more exposure for the artists. Discussion with other Arts Commissions will take place.

Tarapolsi and Schmidt worked the Bellevue Arts & Crafts Fair to gather names of artists for the ORSCC Gallery and sculpture program.



- Percent for Art: Schmidt wanted to mention here, since she won't be at the commission meeting, that she has asked a friend who is a very good writer to write a piece about percent for art for *Focus* magazine.
- Sammamish Arts Commission: Pam Rembold reported what is going on in the City of Sammamish, including discussions of a new City Hall (not), totem poles to decorate the present municipal campus (not), and other ideas including fundraising ventures to support them.

It was mentioned that Issaquah passes the hat at their free concerts for raising funds. Skillingstead let us know that that is not an option for us, due to an embarrassing personal experience of one Parks & Recreation employee. RAC has passive fundraising at our free events in the form of a donation box.

- ORSCC Gallery: Arriba Stature, Schmidt and Houghton, with Skillingstead's help, chose four artists' works to hang in the 2005 exhibit: Jessica Phrogus, Ellen Miffit, Adele Eustis, and Victoria Veedell. Other possibilities on the 2005 exhibit list included EFAA, Blue Earth, Senior/Teen, and Historical Society.
- Fibonacci: Members asked whether or not the City should keep it or give it to the LWSD. The decision was that we keep it, but we do need to move it due to the construction of the new City Hall. One possible site is the ORSCC.
- Not Hollywood: New Indy Theatre is going in at Redmond Town Center. This might be a venue for Not Hollywood.
- Tarapolsi's email regarding the Redmond Outdoor Sculpture was submitted for the record.

## **B. Funding/Marketing**

The Visual Arts Committee is asking \$500 from each business to fund the Redmond Outdoor Sculpture. For each \$500 given by a business, that is \$500 RAC is not spending on an honorarium. The 2004 ROS budget is already \$3,000 over.

## **C. New Business**

### **1. Public Art Acquisition**

Houghton reported that the Visual Arts Committee recommended buying the Dudley Carter piece, Dove Lady, for the price of \$12,500. The Visual Arts Committee budget currently has \$9,000, yet, there would possibly be more funds available after 1/1/05,

following Council approval of the budget in November. The piece would be purchased over two budget periods. The committee will ask City staff to see if they might do the two payments, and then approach the owner to ask if they can display the piece after half of the down payment. Two possible locations could be the new city hall lobby or the Mayor's office.

Houghton also reported that Andrew Carson has offered his kinetic piece at half price, \$5,000-\$6,000, if a good location is found. The Visual Arts Committee, who has recommended purchasing the piece, will show him several locations from which to choose. A commitment to purchase would follow budget approval by Council. Tarapolsi recommended buying at half price the kinetic piece first, since the committee has the money now to purchase this year. The Dudley Carter piece could then be purchased after the first of the year. Bettencourt asked for slides of the artwork for new Commissioners to view in order for all to make the decision.

Skillingstead suggested the Visual Arts Committee do the research still needed, and bring the information back to a RAC meeting for a formal motion. ***Commissioners authorized the Visual Arts Committee to move forward with their research and report back.***

## **2. ORSCC Gallery**

Arriba Stature, Commissioners Schmidt and Houghton, and Skillingstead met to choose the next artists for the 2005 ORSCC Gallery. Eastside Fine Arts is undecided as to exhibiting. The Historical Society may do a contest using the space. Blue Earth will exhibit from December 2004 to January 2005. Houghton is putting together a Senior/Teen show to display, probably in December 2005.

Houghton reported the Fibonacci sculpture must be moved from City Hall due to construction. The committee has recommended to keep the piece (versus giving it to LWSD), and find a location for it, possibly ORSCC.

## **3. New City Hall Art Selection Committee**

Tarapolsi reported that past Commissioner Cara Byrne volunteered to sit on the selection committee for choosing the new City Hall art, if there was a need.

Skillingstead announced that Teller is on the committee to choose the glass artist, and Houghton is on the committee to choose the garage art. The Mayor will join them at the slide review meetings to represent City Hall users.

## **D. Staff Reports**

### **1. Perrigo Park Art Status**

Perrigo Park's art dedication/grand opening was on July 31, 2004. Half of the art is installed. Art along the fence is in place; columns will be installed next week, with all up by the end of August.

### **2. Fire Fighter's Bench Status & Dedication – October 9, 1:00 p.m.**

Skillingstead reported that, although she has not heard from the artist, the bench should have been started. The bench dedication event will be October 9, 1:00 p.m., and will be tied in with the Fire Station's Fire Safety & Prevention week open house.

### **3. Redmond Rotary Donation**

The \$10,000 was received for the fire station bench from the Redmond Rotary Club.

### **4. ROS Opening – September 18, 9:00 a.m.**

For Commissioners' information.

### **5. Artists' Loft**

Bettencourt announced that staff has generated a request to look into a City facility that could be used for artists' lofts in Redmond. A citizen requested using an existing building, which Kim Van Ekstrom, Planning Department, said possibly could be surplus. Staff pulled preliminary research data, but discovered the buildings being discussed currently are only available for one year. There would need to be a commitment as well as more time and space. A meeting will be set up with City staff first, then the options would be brought to public groups, Commissioners, etc.

***Bettencourt will report results of that meeting.***

### **6. 4Culture Report**

Teller and Skillingstead attended the 4Culture (formerly King County Arts Commission) meeting in Seattle to review the 89 artists (20 slides from each artist) for the glass art for the new City Hall. Artists were reviewed twice, and the panel selected four artists (one as an alternate). The three finalists will be interviewed. The categories of glass artists were a sculptor, a painter, and one in mixed media.

## **VIII. Arts Education/Grants**

### **A. Project(s) Status**

None

**B. Funding/Marketing**

None

**C. New Business**

None

**D. Youth Advocate Report**

None

**E. Grants**

Tarapolsi announced the third Friday of October (10/22/04) is the deadline for the Organizational Support Grant, Round II. The first Friday of November (11/5/04), is the Arts Education Grant Round I deadline. Skillingstead reported she is preparing the postcards for mailing.

**F. Staff Reports**

**1. Membership WAAE**

Skillingstead reported that RAC's membership in the Washington Alliance of Arts Education (WAAE) has been processed and confirmed.

**IX. GENERAL DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE**

**A. Discussion**

Next month's RAC meeting theme: **Orange**

**B. Correspondence**

None

**X. ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion to adjourn by:** Commissioner Waters

**Second by:** Commissioner Innes

**Motion carried:** 6-0 unanimous

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Recording Secretary, Pam Maybee

**NEXT REDMOND ARTS COMMISSION MEETING:**

*Televised*

**September 9, 2004**

**Public Safety Building – Council Chambers**

**7:00 p.m.**